

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Octave of Easter 2021

Dear People of St Mary's

Happy Easter!

This year more than ever I invite you to celebrate with me the whole Octave of Easter (Sunday to Sunday) as a continuation of Easter Day. You'll see on the bulletin there are three in-church masses during the Octave. The extra highlighting of the Octave this year springs from the need to spread our in-church participation due to the limit that our covid security measures place on our church capacity.

You'll see on the bulletin that the three in-church masses in the Octave are Easter Sunday 8.30am (revised from the earlier time of 8.00am), Easter Wednesday 10.00am, and the Saturday 6pm Mass for the Octave day of Easter. Please register online if you want to participate in any of these in-church masses. Registration has now closed for the Easter Sunday 8.30am Mass and will close Tuesday 10am for the Wednesday 10am Mass, and Friday 6pm for the Saturday 6pm Mass.

For in-church participation, please read in advance the link on the homepage [Celebration of mass by in-church participation](#) which has undergone some revisions, and please also read all the notes given on the online registration from the link at the top of the homepage as you follow through the registration steps.

The Easter Sunday 8.30am in-church mass is an extra mass I'm putting on this year. Because it's very close to the Sunday 10am Mass I won't have time to set up a livestream for it. All other masses throughout the Octave will be livestreamed as usual, and with the singing of what I hope will be some of your much loved Easter hymns\song at the Sunday 10am and Sunday 5pm Masses.

Might be singing The Fire Hymn with our virtual fire at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. The words are a by the Roman Christian poet Aurelius Prudentius AD 348-405.

*Gracious Lord, whose gift is the red light of dawn and the fixed divisions of the day, when the sun sinks low think darkness overwhelms us: bring back light to your faithful servants, O Christ. You have painted the heavens, your royal court, with countless stars and gleaming moon; but we must learn to make the rock hard flint yield light when struck. Lest man not know that light brings hope rooted deep in the living body of Christ, who wished to be called the stable rock from which life comes to our fire today...etc.*

Wishing you a wonderful Easter

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021